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Khrushchev Misjudges Source Of U.S. Power

NIKITA KHRUSHCHEV is smart like Mickey the Duncie when he turns to appraising United States politics. His gratuitous insult of President Eisenhower in declaring his refusal to negotiate or do business with us "for the next six or eight months" was made with an eye on our national elections calendar.

Six months takes us to the election; eight months to the inaugural of a new president. A quick assumption readily inferred is that Khrushchev allowed the two-month spread to see who would be elected as Mr. Eisenhower's successor. He thinks he has our candidates pretty well cased and can steer his political strategy to fit the individual.

Paris Correspondent C. L. Sulzberger of the New York Times suggests that if Vice-President Richard M. Nixon is elected, Khrushchev will try to resume relations with President Eisenhower in the interim before inauguration. The Soviet dictator dislikes Nixon thoroughly. When the President said prior to the Summit that he might call Nixon to sit in for him if things lasted more than a week, Khrushchev sniffed that that would be "like turning a goat into a cabbage patch."

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His dislike of Nixon should prove a genuine political asset to the Republican front-runner in the months ahead. Nixon handed Khrushchev more than the Soviet boss cared to handle in a stiff exchange of repartee at last summer's Moscow Fair. Nixon has also challenged leaders of so-called "neutral" states to "stand up and be counted" in the world struggle between ideologies of freedom or slavery. Nikita doesn't like Nixon's tough posture.

But if he thinks he can dodge Nixon, in the event of the lat-

est overture to the President, he doesn't know the real Ike. As a former five-star general, Mr. Eisenhower has demonstrated a great capacity for accepting critical analysis of his Administration's conduct. As a former five-star general, he also has shown that no man can attack him with rudeness and aspersions reflecting on his personal character or integrity—and ever expect again to approach him with a grin and outstretched hand!

Khrushchev thinks our political parties are of no consequence, that personalities and power blocs dictate choices. Because Russia is obsessed with the strong rise of West Germany, Khrushchev seems to see an unholy triumvirate of Chancellor Adenauer, Allen Dulles of our Central Intelligence Agency, and Pentagon generals aligned against him.

The Times correspondent says Nikita would like to see the election of Nelson Rockefeller, since he would represent the return of "big business" with a solid capitalist name—"He regards Rockefeller as a charter member of the 'big business' gang that secretly rules our country when the Pentagon isn't (as he imagines) in the driver's seat."

We don't know who feeds the Soviet boss his insights into American politics. Presumably all things are adjusted to square with what Soviet logic would dictate under similar circumstances. But Khrushchev's biggest error along with that of his advisers planted over here is his utter disregard of American public opinion—the power of the people at the polls and in communicating their will to Washington.

The people of the United States are united today behind their President, and they will be just as united behind the next president in all things affecting the security of this nation. If Khrushchev thinks otherwise, let him test